MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

 'RUST
 NR Eligible: yes \_\_\_\_

 TY FORM
 no \_\_\_\_

Building 262: Poultry Fattening Laboratory				
Property Name: Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) Inventory Number: PG:62-58				
Address:     Central Farm     City: Beltsville     Zip Code:     20705				
County:       Prince George's County       USGS Topographic Map:       Beltsville 7.5-Minute				
Owner:       U.S.A U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)       Is the property being evaluated a district?yes				
Tax Parcel Number:    0143    Tax Map Number:    0019    Tax Account ID Number:    01-0070151				
Project: DOEs of 69 Buildings at BARC Agency: USDA				
Site visit by MHT Staff: X no yes Name:Date:				
Is the property located within a historic district? X yesno				
If the property is within a district   District Inventory Number:   PG:62-14				
NR-listed districtyes Eligible district _Xyes District Name: Beltsville Agricultural Research Center				
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource X yes no Non-contributing but eligible in another context				
If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligibleyesno				
eria: <u>X A B X C D</u> Considerations: <u>A B C D E F G X None</u>				
Documentation on the property/district is presented in: MIHP Form, PG:62-14				

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) was one of the largest agricultural research facilities in the United States (Figures 1 and 2). Owned by the USDA, the facility was established in Beltsville in 1910 and significantly expanded in the 1930s and 1940s. In the 1960s, the USDA's research program began evolving from an internationally recognized research center to a decentralized model. In 1984, BARC was re-designated as a regional center. BARC's period of significance ranges from its inception in 1910 to its reclassification as a regional center in 1984.

#### **Building Location**

BARC identifies the address of Building 262 as 10300 Baltimore Avenue, Building 262, Central Farm. Building 262 is located 90' west of Poultry Road; 535' south of the intersection of Odell and Poultry Roads.

#### **Building Description**

Located in the USDA ARS BARC's Central Farm (Figures 3 through 6), Building 262 (Photo 1) was built as a Poultry Fattening Laboratory. Building 262 is a rectangular building and faces east towards Poultry Road that extends south from Odell Road, and is located immediately south of the boiler house, Building 261 (Photo 2). The three-story building is oriented on a

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW		
Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended		
Criteria: X A B C D Considerations:	ABCDEI	F G None
Comments:		
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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services (	) Date	
3 CINTO	719118	
Reviewer, NR Program	Date	
		Revised Oct 25, 2014

Continuation Sheet No. 1

MIHP No: PG:62-58

north-south axis. Building 262 is 73'-4" long and 46' wide and is constructed of 8" cinder block walls with a <sup>3</sup>/4" stucco finish. It has no other architectural ornamentation other than a precast concrete water table between the first and second floors. Precast concrete lintels are buried within the wall structure, and are covered by the stucco exterior. Building 262 has central entrances on the east and west elevations. The east entrance has a single nine-light, wood-paneled door with sidelights and a transom, sheltered by a small canopy roof over the porch. The west entrance has a set of double metal doors. There were two other secondary entrances: one on the west elevation near the southwest corner and another on the north elevation, near the northeast corner, both filled with metal doors. The building originally had single and ribbons of windows filled with awning-style, steel-framed sashes. Some of these windows were later infilled, and all the remaining windows received single-light, double-hung replacement sashes. Some windows on the north and south elevations have been resized for egress doors to access metal fire escapes hanging on the sides of the building (Photos 3 and 4). Building 262 has a penthouse that is 40'-9" long and 12'-10 <sup>3</sup>/s" wide that projects above the flat roof (Photo 5). The roof is surrounded by a parapet wall that steps down twice on the east elevation. A small concrete-block addition is appended to the west elevation of the ground floor of Building 262, south of the central entry doors. The small addition is approximately 8' square, has a single entrance on the south elevation, and is covered by a shed roof.

Building 262 has a central interior stairway (Photo 6) and elevator with cross halls on each floor providing access to what were originally administrative offices and mechanical rooms on the first floor, laboratories and cold storage rooms on the second floor (Photo 7), and the large open brooding and fattening rooms on the third floor. The interior of Building 262 has been renovated multiple times with rooms being subdivided, enlarged and/or repurposed over time, including the installation and replacement of laboratory furniture (cabinets) (Photo 8). The stairway and cross halls still exhibited original materials such as flooring and light fixtures.

Building 262, vacant since 2002, is in poor condition.

#### History of Property

#### Central Farm

Building 262, constructed in 1937, is located on the 2,980-acre Central Farm. The largest and oldest of all of BARC's farms, the USDA acquired the Central Farm in stages between 1910 and 1939; most of the buildings and landscape of the Central Farm were developed between 1911 and 1944. The Central Farm is located at the center of BARC and is adjacent to BARC's Linkage Farm to the west, single-family homes along Odell Road to the north, facilities associated with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and U.S. Department of State (DOS) to the northeast, the Baltimore-Washington Parkway to the east, and the City of Greenbelt to the south. The Central Farm has approximately 12 clusters of buildings situated on approximately 336 acres (of the 2,980-acre total), as well as pastures, wetlands, and forested areas used for animal husbandry, production crops, animal and plant research, and wildlife management. The USDA's Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) has historically been the Central Farm's main user (Robinson and Associates 1998).

The USDA acquired the first portion of the Central Farm in 1910 when it purchased 475 acres of the Hall Farm for the Farm Dairy and Animal Husbandry Divisions of the BAI to establish an experimental farm. To accommodate the experimental farm's many research tasks during BARC's early period (i.e., 1910-1933), the USDA constructed laboratories, farm buildings, pastures, and staff housing. In addition, the BAI added laboratories for its Pathology and Zoological Divisions.

In the 1920s, the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) began to operate at BARC on approximately 425 acres of leased land that was subsequently purchased with Public Works Administration (PWA) funds in the 1930s, expanding the Central Farm (Wiser and Rasmussen 1966; USDA circa 1937). In 1924, the Farm Dairy and Animal Husbandry Divisions separated into the Bureau of Dairy Industry (BDI) and the BAI. The BDI used 190 acres for continued experiments on dairy cattle breeding, forage crop, silage, and milk research, and the BAI kept 285 acres for its animal research. By 1925, the USDA owned 1,062 acres of the Central Farm and leased about 1,000 more acres (Wiser and Rasmussen 1966). By 1933, four land purchases totaling an additional 1,381 acres further increased the Central Farm's size (USDA circa 1937, Robinson and Associates 1998).

The majority of the Central Farm was acquired under New Deal policies and funding of the 1930s, when the USDA transformed BARC into a model experiment station. A series of land acquisitions during the 1930s grew BARC to more than 12,000 acres. With this expansion, many of the Bureaus established, enlarged, or constructed new research facilities on the

Continuation Sheet No. 2

Central Farm. These included the BAI's pathology, zoology, and insecticide divisions, the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering, the Bureau of Cultural and Industrial Chemistry, and the Food and Drug Administration (Robinson and Associates 1998).

The expansion of BARC required major infrastructure improvements that were undertaken with PWA funding and oversight, and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) assistance and labor. A CCC camp was established on the north end of the Central Farm in 1933; eventually, four CCC camps were established at BARC, although their exact locations are not known. The CCC workers cleared and drained land, built fences and roads, and constructed small sheds and structures. The overall design of the Central Farm in the 1930s was guided by a master plan that was the work of A.D. Taylor and Delos Smith; H.F. Seahorn of the Public Buildings Administration; Robert T. Walker, CCC landscape architect; and Hugh H. Bennet of the Soil Conservation Service (Robinson and Associates 1998). The Central Farm's character-defining landscape features include:

- Topographical and anthropogenically altered features, such as major paved roads, minor service and field roads, *drainage* systems, Beaver Dam Creek, and graded fields;
- Vegetation features, such as field and research crops, pastures, Beltsville Seasonal Ponds, Beltsville Bottomland Forest, and meadows;
- Circulation features, such as Dairy Farm, Powder Mill, Entomology, Research, BioControl, Poultry, and Beaver Dam Roads, as well as secondary and service roads;
- Five main clusters of development, including the 100 Area Cluster (BDI), 200 Area Cluster (BAI Poultry Research Division), 300 Area Cluster (BAI – Parasitological Laboratory of the Zoological Division), 400 Area Cluster (Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine [BEPQ] – Entomology Research Division), and 1000 Area Cluster (Animal Disease Station); and
- Small-scale features, such as fencing, culverts, an amphitheater, and a cemetery (Robinson and Associates 1998).

### Bureau of Animal Industry

The USDA's BAI, the earliest of the USDA's research bureaus at BARC, came to the Central Farm in 1910 when its Dairy and Animal Husbandry Divisions established an experimental farm within BARC's initial 475 acres. When the USDA reorganized the Dairy Division into a separate BDI, the BAI retained 285 acres of the Central Farm for its Animal Husbandry Division. During the 1920s, the BAI's Animal Husbandry Division led the continued development of the site and was the largest section (i.e., in terms of both areas occupied and staff) at BARC. The division's research initially focused on the breeding of all domestic animals, except dairy (Robinson and Associates 1998).

By the early 1930s, the BAI's Animal Husbandry Division's needs far exceeded its facilities. To address these needs, the PWA allotted over \$1 million for a major construction program at BARC that included laboratories, an abattoir (slaughterhouse), and animal buildings. These facilities were constructed at BARC with the assistance of CCC workers, with funding and oversight provided by the PWA and the Civil Works Administration. A new Main Laboratory (i.e., Building 200), constructed under this program, was the showpiece of the new animal husbandry area.

As a result of the expansion, by the mid-1930s, the BAI's Animal Husbandry Division was the largest experimental farm in the country and the center of nation's research on animal husbandry (Robinson and Associates 1998). In addition to animal husbandry, the BAI transferred other divisions to BARC during the late 1920s and early 1930s using New Deal funding sources at the Central and East Farms. The BAI's Zoological Division moved its experimental headquarters to, and the BAI's Animal Disease Station was established at BARC's Central Farm in 1929 and expanded in 1935 (Robinson and Associates 1998).

In 1953, the USDA undertook a major reorganization and decentralization of the USDA's agricultural research program that continued through the 1970s (Office of Technology Assessment [OTA] 1981). The decentralization had long-lasting consequences for BARC. The department's scientific bureaus, including the BAI, were discontinued and the department's search functions were centralized under the new Agricultural Research Administration (now the ARS) (OTA 1981). The USDA again reorganized in 1972 with administrative decentralization as its goal (OTA 1981). Through this process, operating responsibility was delegated to four regions, which were then subdivided into research area centers. BARC's scientists and facilities thus became a regional research facility, rather than a national one (OTA 1981). By 1980, the USDA's research

Continuation Sheet No. 3

program was highly decentralized, with research undertaken at 148 locations, including the much diminished 450-scientist facility at BARC (OTA 1981).

Over the years, the BAI's researchers conducted important research at BARC that has led to major improvements in eradicating and treating contagious diseases in farm animals, reducing parasite infestations, and improving nutrition. The BAI's Animal Husbandry Division undertook critical poultry and swine research that improved the size and health of the farm animals. The BAI's Zoology Division's parasite research brought innovative new approaches to treating infestations. The BAI's Animal Disease Station developed vaccines to prevent Bang's disease and developed sterilization methods for contaminated hides (Robinson and Associates 1998).

#### History of the Poultry Fattening Laboratory, Building 262

One set of original design drawings, dated February 10, 1932, exists for Building 262. The design drawings were drafted by the USDA Bureau of Agricultural Engineering, Division of Plans and Service. The USDA indicates Building 262 was constructed in 1937, and the difference between the two dates may have been due to availability of funding or changing priorities. Still, the timeline and construction methodology for the building is consistent with the New Deal development of BARC, prioritizing design elements such as symmetry, strong central entrances, and concrete and brick construction, and balancing fireproof materials and construction techniques with the buildings' individual designs and programs. The utilitarian construction and design elements of Building 262 were conscious and informed decisions by the architects for the purposes of aesthetic consistency as well as the promotion of fire safety among livestock and experimental/laboratory buildings (Robinson and Associates 1998).

A set of drawings for Building 262 dated March 29, 1934 (revised May 5, 1937) indicated the rooms on the second and third floors were reconfigured.

A set of drawings for Building 262 dated May, 1973 indicated the first floor was renovated and partially reconfigured.

A set of drawings for Building 262 dated June 7, 1973 indicated the metal fire escapes were installed and four windows on the south elevation (two each on the second and third floors) and two windows on the north elevation (one each on the second and third floors) were resized to create egress doors.

A set of drawings for Building 262 dated June 3, 1974 indicated various rooms on all three floors were renovated and reconfigured.

A set of drawings for Building 262 dated March 28, 1983 indicated the stairway was enclosed (probably due to fire safety concerns).

A set of drawings for Building 262 dated June 4, 1984 indicated Rooms 32, 32A, and 32B were renovated (new cabinets and configurations).

A set of drawings for Building 262 dated September 3, 1992 indicated Rooms 202, 202A, 203, 203A, 203B, and 203C were renovated and reconfigured.

A set of drawings for Building 262 dated September 2, 1997 indicated a new boiler was installed, requiring construction of the small addition on the west elevation of the building.

Principle alterations to the building include the replacement and infill of many of original windows, and the repeated renovations of the interior throughout the years. Building 262 has been vacant since 2002 and is in poor condition.

Continuation Sheet No. 4

#### National Register of Historic Places Evaluation

Building 262 was evaluated in 1997 to determine the building's individual significance or status as a contributing or noncontributing property at BARC, a 6,582-acre federal agricultural research facility. BARC was determined eligible in its entirety for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as the largest national research facility for the USDA and for its role as the most diversified agricultural research complex in the world. That evaluation determined Building 262 to be eligible for listing in the NRHP as a contributing property within BARC. This evaluation concurs that while Building 262 is not individually significant, it contributes to the overall significance of BARC. The history and development of the agricultural research facility also reflects New Deal policies and programs, and contains notable landscape architecture, Georgian Revival architecture, and experimental agricultural architecture. The criteria applied to evaluate properties for the NRHP are presented below.

Under Criterion A, Building 262 is a contributing property within BARC, which is significant at the national level for its association with events that have made significant contributions to the broad pattern of our history with agricultural experimentation. Many aspects of twentieth century living for the farmer and consumer were influenced by the scientific research conducted at BARC. BARC is a prominent example of the federal role in agricultural research, scientific agricultural research in general, and New Deal policies and programs, such as the 1930s agricultural policies and funding, the PWA, and the CCC, which all played important roles in shaping the experimental farm. BARC's scientists and researchers have made major contributions toward scientific knowledge that have resulted in incredible advances in crop production, plant and animal disease control, and pest control. Building 262 was specifically designed and operated as a poultry fattening laboratory for the BAI to investigate the proper care and feeding of poultry. BARC scientists and researchers made valuable scientific contributions, both in foundational and applicable science.

BARC and Building 262 have not been determined significant under Criterion B for their association with the lives of persons significant in our past.

Under Criterion C, Building 262 is a contributing property within BARC, as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. The physical appearance of BARC was strongly influenced in the 1930s by the planning team of A.D. Taylor, landscape architect, and Delos Smith, architect. The majorities of BARC's buildings share a Georgian Revival style and/or display the characteristics of experimental agricultural architecture. BARC's landscape includes major paved roads, minor service roads, field and research crops, pasture lands, seasonal ponds, forests, sustainable meadows, and other landscape features and buildings. Building 262, while relatively modest in design, represents an example of the experimental, and purpose-driven agricultural architecture trends for which BARC is significant, and contributes to the overall landscape.

Neither BARC nor Building 262 specifically has been evaluated under Criterion D for its yielding, or likelihood to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Building 262 retains its original location and setting within an agricultural research complex. Building 262 is specifically linked to its design and operation as a poultry fattening laboratory and its tie to the research buildings devoted to poultry within the BAI. The feeling of, and association with, an agricultural research center is intact. Although Building 262 has been altered, it maintains key elements of its original design including massing, footprint, and exterior cladding. Building 262 retains its integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. Building 262 was vacated in 2002 and is in poor condition.

Although Building 262 does not reach the level of significance necessary for individual listing on the NRHP, it maintains its significance within BARC under Criteria A and C.

Continuation Sheet No. 5

MIHP No: PG:62-58

## References

Office of Technology Assessment (OTA), U.S. Food and Agricultural Research Advisory Panel

1981 An Assessment of the United States Food and Agricultural Research System. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

https://books.google.com/books?id=0Muy9v0PQckC&lpg=PA29&dq=The%20Role%20and%20Development%20of %20Public%20Agricultural%20Research&pg=PA29#v=onepage&q&f=false (accessed December 21, 2016).

Robinson and Associates

1998 *Historic Site Survey, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland.* On file at the Maryland Historical Trust.

### United States Department of Agriculture

- 1932 *Poultry Fattening Laboratories, Beltsville, MD.* Bureau of Agricultural Engineering, Division of Plans and Service. On file, Architectural Drawings Collection, Facilities and Engineering Branch, Building 426, BARC.
- 1934 *Poultry Fattening Laboratory.* Architectural and Engineering Section. On file, Architectural Drawings Collection, Facilities and Engineering Branch, Building 426, BARC.

#### Circa

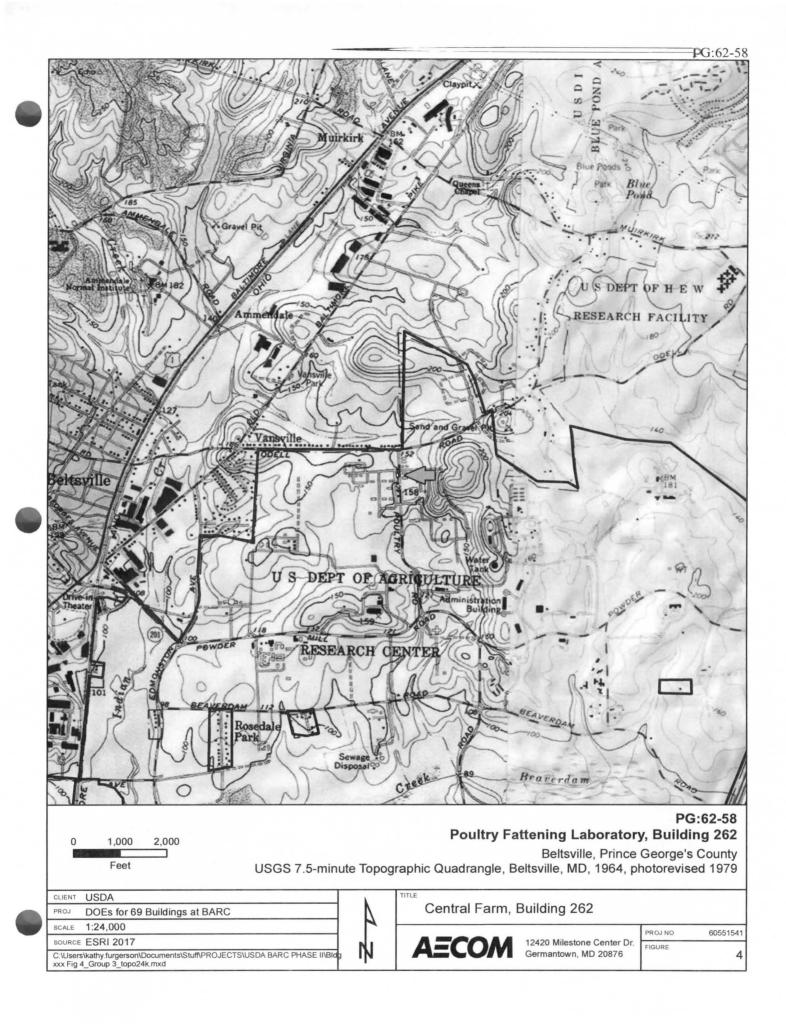
- 1937 *The National Agricultural Research Center of the Department of Agriculture*. USDA Library, Special Collections 360.
- 1973 Bldg. 262. On file, Architectural Drawings Collection, Facilities and Engineering Branch, Building 426, BARC.
- 1973 *Install Fire Escapes, Building 262.* On file, Architectural Drawings Collection, Facilities and Engineering Branch, Building 426, BARC.
- 1974 *Alterations to Building 262.* On file, Architectural Drawings Collection, Facilities and Engineering Branch, Building 426, BARC.
- 1983 *BARC Stair Enclosures: Building 262 Plans.* Division of Operations. On file, Architectural Drawings Collection, Facilities and Engineering Branch, Building 426, BARC.
- 1984 *Renovations: Rms 32, 32A, 32B, Bld. 262.* Division of Operations. On file, Architectural Drawings Collection, Facilities and Engineering Branch, Building 426, BARC.
- 1992 *Renovation of Rooms 202, 202A, 203, 203A, 203B, & 203C at Bldg. 262 BARC East.* Engineering and Planning. On file, Architectural Drawings Collection, Facilities and Engineering Branch, Building 426, BARC.
- 1997 *Install Boilers in Buildings 262 and 263.* Engineering and Maintenance Branch. On file, Architectural Drawings Collection, Facilities and Engineering Branch, Building 426, BARC.
- Wiser, Vivian and Wayne D. Rasmussen
- 1966 "Background for Plenty: A National Center for Agricultural Research." *Maryland Historical Magazine* 61:4, December 1966.

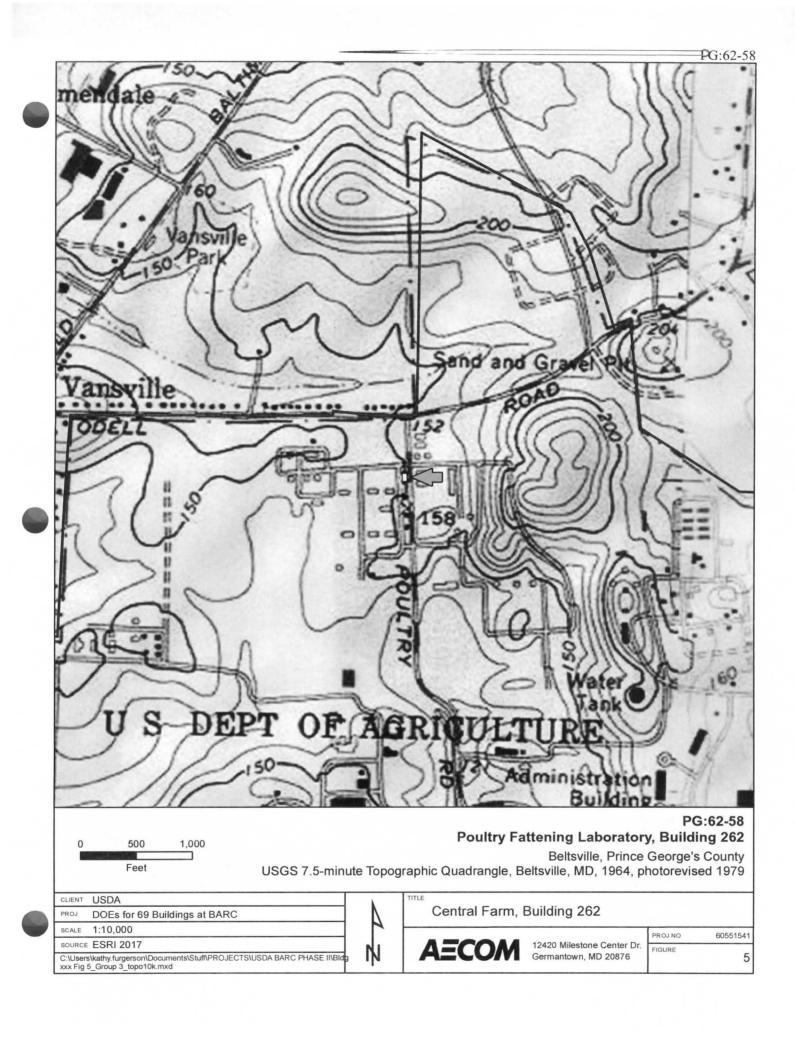
Prepared by:

Patrick Thompson, MHP (AECOM)

Date Prepared:

March 29, 2018







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Poultry Fattening Laboratory, Building 262 Beltsville, Prince George's County USGS 7.5-minute Topographic Quadrangle, Beltsville, MD, 1964, photorevised 1979

CLIENT USDA

PROJ DOEs for 69 Buildings at BARC

1:1,500 SCALE

SOURCE ESRI 2017

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Central Farm, Building 262

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# **Photograph Log**

## USDA

DOEs for 69 Buildings at BARC Building 262: Poultry Fattening Laboratory 10300 Baltimore Avenue, Central Farm Prince George's County, MD Photographer: Brian Cleven, Architectural Historian September 22 and December 7, 2017 MD SHPO

## Archival Black and White Photographs for the Maryland Historical Trust.

- 1. PG;62-58\_2017\_12\_07\_01.tif, Building 262, Poultry Fattening Laboratory, Central Farm, View of East Elevation, Looking West-Northwest
- PG;62-58\_2017\_12\_07\_02.tif, Building 262, Poultry Fattening Laboratory, Central Farm, Overview of North and West Elevations, Looking Southeast
- 3. PG;62-58\_2017\_12\_07\_03.tif, Building 262, Poultry Fattening Laboratory, Central Farm, View of the West and South Elevations, Looking Northeast
- 4. PG;62-58\_2017\_12\_07\_04.tif, Building 262, Poultry Fattening Laboratory, Central Farm, View of the West Elevation, Looking Southeast

# Digital Photographs for the Maryland Historical Trust.

- 5. PG;62-58\_2017\_09\_22\_05.tif, Building 262, Poultry Fattening Laboratory, Central Farm, View of East Elevation of Penthouse, Looking Northwest
- 6. PG;62-58\_2017\_09\_22\_06.tif, Building 262, Poultry Fattening Laboratory, Central Farm, View of Main Entrance from Stairwell, Looking East
- 7. PG;62-58\_2017\_09\_22\_07.tif, Building 262, Poultry Fattening Laboratory, Central Farm, Interior View of Walk-In Freezer/Refrigerator, Looking Southwest
- 8. PG;62-58\_2017\_09\_22\_08.tif, Building 262, Poultry Fattening Laboratory, Central Farm, View of the Laboratory, Looking North



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